

SPIRIT OF THE PIONEER

*A newsletter for the families and friends of
the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery
(Across from McArthur Court)*

SPRING 2006

JOHN SMEED: BOARD MEMBER EUGENE PIONEER CEMETERY ENDOWMENT FUND.

*by Ruth Lake Holmes, Sec. - Treas.
Eugene Pioneer Cemetery
Association*

Mr. John Smeed is a long-time active supporter of Eugene Pioneer Cemetery. John was born in Eugene to Herbert and Ethyl Smeed. Thus he is both a native Oregonian and a native Eugenean.

His parents owned a one-third interest in the historic Smeed Hotel located at 5th Avenue and Willamette Street. It was popular in early years because it was the closest hotel to the railroad Depot, the preferred mode of distance travel then.

John attended Eugene High School on West 17th Avenue, the one and only high school for many years. Upon graduation he worked for Boeing in Seattle for one year.

John was drafted in January 1943, and became a part of the Aviation Engineers Division. This Division was responsible for airfield construction, maintenance and repair through all fields of action. He saw service in the South Pacific, New Guinea, the Philippines, and Japan.

John tells about having his section all loaded up on shipboard ready to move at night to another Philippine island, when General Douglas MacArthur ordered them back on the land for a full moon made it too light for safe travel at night. John stayed on the ship as a guard. That night the Japanese bombed the camp and five people were killed. He became used to being shot at and bombed, he says, though it was both a physical and a mental hazard.

After the war ended John attended the University of Oregon and graduated with a degree in Architecture. He then found that this niche was pretty well filled up so he



**Mr. John Smeed:
Eugene Pioneer Cemetery
Endowment Fund**

turned his attention to designing and building houses himself. Subsequently, he worked for the Housing Division of the Eugene Planning Mill, again drafting house plans for custom houses.

In 1967 John became part of the Lane County Building Section of the Lane County Planning Commission, where he checked building plans for compliance with the various codes. He soon became Supervisor of that Section. John retired in 1986.

John and his wife, Joan, whom he met at the University of Oregon, have two children, Stephen and Janet. They both reside in Eugene, again as native Oregonians and Eugeneans.

John's grandfather, Stephen Smeed, bought the large family cemetery plot from the I.O.O.F. Lodge of which he was a member. Buried in the Smeed family lot are his grandmother, Eliza Smeed,
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Combined Annual Meetings to be Held on May 20th, 2006

Memorial Day Services at Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Set for 11:00 a.m. on May 29th

Any Comments or Questions? Please write or phone us!

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**Meet Mr. Tim King:
Appointed Board Member of
Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association**

*by Ruth Lake Holmes, Secretary Treasurer
Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association*

Tim King, the newest member of the Cemetery's Board of Directors, was well acquainted with cemeteries from an early age. His mother, Thelma King, took him for frequent walks in cemeteries in Pigeon, Michigan where he was born. "She passed away three years ago, but I know that she would have really enjoyed visiting the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery," Tim remarked. He remembers the stories she could tell from the stones, the names, dates, and inscriptions on the varied stones.

Tim's family moved away from Michigan when his father, who was a Mennonite minister, was called to serve a congregation in Kansas. Tim attended Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas and graduated with a degree in Architecture. There, he also met his wife, Linda, while serving as "houseboy" at her sorority.

He and Linda adopted a one-year-old Chinese girl, Laurel, about 9 years ago. She changed their lives from being weekend golfers to PTA members, a delightful and very rewarding one. Laurel, who is 10 years old now, is enrolled in Charlemagne French Immersion School at Fox Hollow School. She loves to play soccer, is excellent at ballet, and is a talented piano player.

In the 1970's, Tim's parents moved to Lebanon, Oregon where his father became a chaplain at a local hospital. With Tim's parents residing in Lebanon, Tim and Linda also decided to move to Oregon. Tim's first job was with an architecture firm in Eugene owned by Lloyd Bond. The next ten years was spent as a construction supervisor for a landscape firm.

Some 23 years ago he went to work for the Facilities Services at the University of Oregon. At first, he was supervisor of the campus landscape crew, but gradually rose to higher and higher responsibility, culminating in being named Campus Exterior Supervisor. He is responsible for all of the U. of O. facilities, above and below ground, except buildings.

Tim King has helped the U. of O. move into the Ecology Age. He had the old hose and sprinkler method of watering replaced by underground sprinklers which are less labor intensive and more efficient. Daily reports from the campus weather station are employed to compute evapo-transpiration rates and allot enough water to just the right places for the lawns, shrubs, rosebushes and flowers. More recently, a Geographic Information System (GIS) was used to document all of the underground utilities on campus. The results are stored in a computerized database. Today, when excavations begin for something new, a construction supervisor KNOWS where nearby utility lines are, and what exactly is located beneath the ground at this particular site.

As can be seen from the accompanying photo, Tim King has a cheerful, upbeat outlook on life.



Mr. Tim King in Facilities Services at the U. of O.

Tim attributes his success at Facilities Services to his crew. "No longer do I do the detailed work that I used to, but I oversee the Supervisors of those who do. I am blessed with a truly outstanding crew, and I am extremely proud of them."

Welcome aboard, Tim!

Spring Cleanup Set for Friday, May 26th, 2006

*By Quentin Holmes, Board Member
Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association*

Over a period of years, a series of work parties have transformed the cemetery's landscape from being badly overgrown to being open and inviting. Much of the credit for this cumulative progress goes to Board Member George Beebe who organizes and leads our periodic work parties. (It's a never-ending task for everything keeps on growing!)

This Spring's Work Party is scheduled for Friday, May 26th, 2006 from 9 AM until around 3:30 PM. George Beebe has arranged for the Lane County Sheriff's Forest Work Crew to come up from Alma, Oregon. Under the guidance of Board Members brush will be whacked down and removed, low-hanging or dangerous tree limbs will get removed, and invasive species, such as English ivy, will be beaten back. Our resident caretaker, George Dull, will also be on hand to help with transporting the resulting debris to a large commercial dumpster. Exactly which portion of the cemetery we will work on this time is still to be decided. Do come out and join us if you can – it is a meaningful and satisfying experience.

JOHN SMEED *(continued from page 1)*
who died in 1911, and Stephen Smeed who died in 1930; John's mother, Ethyl who died in 1966; his father, Herbert Smeed who died in 1976; his mother-in-law, Leah McDerman who died in 1971; and his nephew, Stephen Smeed.

John Smeed is a long-time member of Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association, and served as President of the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Endowment Fund for many years. John was the prime-mover in getting replacement memorials for civil war veterans ordered from the Veteran's Administration. He thinks of the Cemetery as "Valuable green open space" that has something for everyone who passes through. He is pleased that the Association has been able to keep it going as a pioneer cemetery since its inception in 1873.

"It has a very special character", he remarks. "Many improvements have been made over the years and many more will be made in the future". John is especially proud of the tree planting that is being done to replace the huge fir trees that were toppled by Spring storms.

John and brother, Ralph, go to the cemetery often to give special attention to their family lot and find it a very fulfilling time. We are indeed fortunate to have Mr. John Smeed on our Board of Directors.

The Martin Lot: Elegance in Simplicity

*By Quentin Holmes, Board Member
Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association*

As you drive into the cemetery you may have noticed the elegant marble bench amidst the trees on your right in Lot No. 192 - The Martin Lot.



Martin Family Memorial.

There is a story behind this elegant and enduring family marker. Wilton Martin was born in 1869. His wife, Lucy was born in 1861. In 1891, Wilton and Lucy Martin came to Eugene, Oregon from Iowa. In Eugene, Wilton operated the Monument Works. The Martins had five children: Edgar L., Verna E., Kenneth J., Lois and Agnes, all of whom were born in Eugene. In 1905, Wilton sold The Monument Works and moved to Salem, Oregon where he also operated a monument company. (NOTE: My great-grandfather, Bert Lake, was the purchaser of the Monument Works and the Lake family operated it for five decades under the name "Eugene Granite and Marble Works".) In 1916, the Martin family moved to Portland, Oregon.

Lucy died on December 4, 1929 and was interred in our cemetery. At that time, Wilton designed and made the sturdy granite bench that graces the Martin family lot. Made of polished "Minnesota Gray" granite it is elegant in its sturdy simplicity. There is none like it in any cemetery in the county!

Wilton passed away on April 1, 1940 in Portland, Oregon. And was laid to rest beside Lucy in our Cemetery. (Although Lucy has a separate headstone, Wilton does not.) In addition to the families of his five children, Wilton was survived by A sister, Nellie (Martin) Gross, and a cousin, Carl McClain who were originally from Iowa and Illinois respectively. Nellie died in September of 1944 at age 71 and is buried in Lot No. 211.

COLLAGE OF RECENT PHOTOGRAPHS



Yenne Lot in Mid-March.

As an unusual mid-March snowfall melted away, clusters of blooming daffodils heralded Spring.

Row of Newly-Planted Conifers.

Today, these seedlings stand just 18 inches high and are busy establishing their roots. 10 years from now, they will stand chest high. In 25 years they will be as tall as a three-story house. 60 years from now, each of these Douglas Fir trees will tower more than 100 feet above the cemetery grounds.



Oregon Grape, abloom in late-March.

ENTRYWAY AND SIGNAGE PROJECT

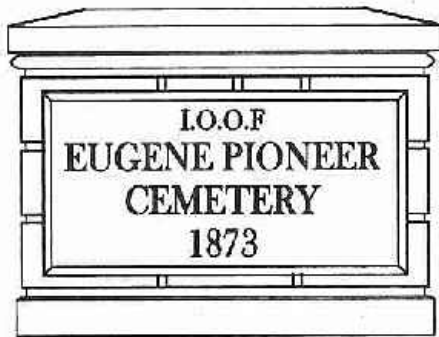
By Sara Leiman, Treasurer of Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Endowment Fund

Most people walking through or traveling by the Cemetery probably do not know the name of our Cemetery. Your Board has just completed the 1st phase of a project to improve the identity signs and provide entrance structures using our 2001 Preservation Plan as a guide,

Three locations need entrance signs. Both the automobile entrance on the west (originally 16th Avenue) and the entrance via stairs on the east (directly across from McArthur Court) are used daily by many students, University staff and neighborhood residents. The third location is the Cemetery's southeast corner (at 18th Ave. and University Street). Every day, hundreds of cars pass by this location, and for many visitors to Eugene it provides their first impression of the Cemetery grounds.

These locations need signs, entry structures and landscaping that is clearly visible, that respects the Cemetery's historic and natural character, that includes the name and founding date of the Cemetery, and is of a design befitting the setting and special nature of this place. The Preservation Plan recommended use of "elemental materials" such as stone, metal or wood to harmonize with existing headstones and curbs, and the surround.

The Preservation Plan also recommended we "develop a comprehensive graphic system" to replace and enhance existing signage. By completing the design of the signs now, we are able to use the same design for future signage in the Cemetery (e.g., Interpretive signs, informational signs and regulatory signs).



Design for Marker near 18th Ave. and University St.

Proposed granite and masonry marker is 48" long, 40" high and 13" thick. This permanent marker reflects both its surround and the historical nature of our Cemetery.

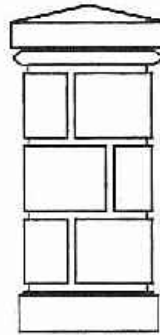
SEEN RECENTLY IN THE CEMETERY



Running About!

While waiting for his music lesson, a 6 year-old boy takes a break in the West side of the cemetery.

Your Board engaged Kate McGee, landscape architect, to design these entryway structures and signs. Kate has worked in Eugene since 1993 and came to us highly recommended. Kate completed the sketches and drawings in early January. She also obtained preliminary cost estimates.



I believe that you will be thrilled with the resulting designs. For many years, the efforts of lot owners and volunteers have been focused on simply keeping the grass mowed and the debris hauled away. Now we have a chance to improve our Cemetery and enhance its appearance. Please help us with a contribution to the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association earmarked for the "Entryway and Signage Project".

UPCOMING EVENTS

Combined Annual Meetings of Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association and Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Endowment Fund, Inc.

Will be held Saturday, May 20th, 2006 at 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: The First Congregational Church
1050 E. 23rd Street
Eugene, Oregon.

Memorial Day Services at The Eugene Pioneer Cemetery

Traditional Memorial Day Services will be held on Monday, May 29th, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. at the Civil War Veteran's Plot in the center of the cemetery. The inspiring Shasta Middle School Band and Choir will perform music from the Civil War era. Please Come!

Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED